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SEVENTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
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New York, 13-22 January 1998
Item 14 (b) of the provisional agenda*

TOPONYMIC EDUCATION AND PRACTICE: TRAINING COURSE IN TOPONYMY

International training course in toponymy of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN (Riga, 22-24 April 1997)

Paper submitted by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)**

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At the 1st meeting of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN it has been accepted to organise International Training Courses in Toponymy and the Second Meeting of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN in Riga in spring 1997.

The main aim of the Training Courses in Toponymy of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN is to acquainted with the international and national activities and experience of standardization of place names and to inform other states about toponymic investigation in Latvia.

The participants of the Training Courses in Toponymy had the possibility to attend a wide range of well-prepared lectures on principles and experience of international standardization of geographical names as well as on national programmes in the Nordic states, Canada and the United States. The problems concerning national standardization (especially - standardization of dialectal names) and toponymic guidelines in the Baltic states were solved by round table discussion. Special attention was devoted to toponymic data bases, automatic data processing, maintenance procedures, web sites, etc. because problems concerning formation and development of toponymic data bases are still actual for all the Baltic division memberstates. The exhibition of maps, gazeteers, journals and other materials connected with toponymy took place during the Courses.

65 participants and 6 lecturers from 10 countries namely Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Russian Federation, Poland, Finland, Norway, Sweden, the United States, Canada took part in the Courses. The partcipants represented such institutions as: universities, language institutes, national mapping authorities, ministries, post agencies, satistics boards, national registers, schools and organisations dealing with research into local history etc.

Experts and organisers of the International Training Courses in Toponymy from Latvia gratefuly acknowledge and thank all guest lecturers and Chairman of Baltic division Mr Peeter Päll for successful collaboration in organisation of the Courses.

The lecturers:

Botolv Helleland	Chairman of the Norden Division of UNGEGN, Senior lecturer of University of Oslo
Randall E. Flynn	Executive secretary of foreign Names, United States Board on Geographic Names National Imagery and Mapping Agency
Helen Kerfoot	Executive secretary, Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names
Hans Ringstam	Master of Arts of National Land Survey of Sweden
Sirkka Paikkala	Senior researcher, Master of Arts of the Research Institute for the Languages of Finland
Eeva Maria Närhi	Head of Division, Master of Arts of the Research Institute for the Languages of Finland

The organizers: The Training Courses in Toponymy of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN was organized by: State Land Service, University of Latvia, State Language Board, Baltic Division of UNGEGN.

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International Training Courses in Toponymy of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN

Riga, April 22-24, 1997.

The Baltic Division of United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names has been established on the Sixth Conference of UN on the standardisation of geographical names in New York, 1992. It unites experts on geographical names of Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Russian Federation.

At the 1st meeting of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN it has been accept to organize International Training Courses in Toponymy and the second meeting of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN in Riga in spring 1997. The organisation of training courses in toponymy is one direction of the activities of a division of UNGEGN.

The main aim and tasks

The main aim of the Training Courses in Toponymy and of the Second Meeting of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN is to join the international activities of standardization of place names and to inform other states concerning toponymic investigation in Latvia.

The main tasks of the Training Courses in Toponymy in Riga are to set an insight: 1) investigation work and practice on applied toponymy in other countries, such as Norway, Sweden, Finland, USA, Canada and with the experience of UNGEGN in national and international standardization; 2) toponymic investigation in the member states: Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia.

The participants of the Training Courses in Toponymy had the possibility to attend a wide range of well-prepared lectures on principles and experience of international standardization of geographical names as well as on national programmes in the Nordic states, Canada and the United States. Lectures were illustrated by corresponding demonstration materials (including video) and different handouts. The problems concerning national standardization (especially - standardization of dialectal names) and toponymic guidelines in the Baltic states were solved by round table discussion. Special attention was devoted to toponymic data bases, automatic data processing, maintenance procedures, web sites, etc. because problems concerning formation and development of toponymic data bases are still actual for all the Baltic division memberstates. The lecturers from the United States and Canada demonstrated high expertise and experience in this field.

The exhibition of maps, gazeteers, journals and other materials connected with toponymy were organized during the Courses.

65 participants and 6 lecturers from 10 countries namely Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Russian Federation, Poland, Finland, Norway, Sweden, the United States, Canada took part in the Courses . The partcipants represented such institutions as: universities, language institutes, national mapping authorities, ministries, post agencies, satistics

boards, national registers, schools and organisations dealing with research into local history etc.

Experts and organizers of the International Training Courses in Toponymy from Latvia gratefuly acknowledge and thank all guest lecturers and Chairman of Baltic division Mr Peeter Päll for successful collaboration in organisation of the Courses.

The organizers express their gratitude to lecturers and participants for the nice presents - over 50 items of different materials (books, journals, maps, etc.) which were demonstrated in the exhibition and during the lectures.

The lecturers

Botolv Helleland	Chairman of the Norden Division of UNGEGN, Senior lecturer of University of Oslo
Randall E. Flynn	Executive secretary of foreign Names, United States Board on Geographic Names National Imagery and Mapping Agency
Helen Kerfoot	Executive secretary, Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names
Hans Ringstam	Master of Arts of National Land Survey of Sweden
Sirkka Paikkala	Senior researcher. Master of Arts of the Research Institute for the Languages of Finland
Eeva Maria Niirhi	Head of Division, Master of Arts of the Research Institute for the Languages of Finland

Organizers

The Training Courses in Toponymy and the Second Meeting of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN was organized by:

State Land Service
University of Latvia
State Language Board
Baltic Division of UNGEGN

The programme and topics of the Training Courses are given below.

Programme

General topics

1 Applied toponymy: — Randall E. Flynn (USA)
* terminology,
* history of applied toponymy,
* linguistic aspects of geographic names,
* survey of national programs throughout the world

2 United Nations and the standardization of geographical names: — Helen Kerfoot (Canada)

* UN conferences on the standardization of names,

* UNGEGN * exonyms	Eeva Maria Närhi (Finland)
National standardization * national names authorities, * basis for establishing principles of standardization, * policies, procedures,methodology and guidelines	Randall E. Flynn (USA)
1 Naming policies and procedures in Canada	Helen Kerfoot (Canada)
2 The standardization of geographical names in Sweden	Hans Ringstam (Sweden)
3 Norwegian Place Name Law and its implementation	Botolv Helleland (Norway)
4 Standardization of place names in Finland	Sirkka Paikkala (Finland)
Geographical names databases 1 Automated data processing: * introduction (terminology, hardware, software, database management systems), * office processing (data verification, loading the data) * data retrieval requirements and techniques, * maintenance procedures * national gazetteers	Randall E. Flynn (USA)
2 GEOnet Names Server (GNS) of the US BGN	Randall E. Flynn (USA)
3 Canadian Geographical Names Data Base and Geographical Names web site	Helen Kerfoot (Canada)
4 Geographical names in the Swedish property register and the property reform	Hans Ringstam (Sweden)
Standardization of dialectal place names (round table discussion), incl. 1 Geographical names on the official maps of Sweden with some aspects of dialectal writing	Hans Ringstam (Sweden)
Toponymic guidelines 1 Introduction	Peeter Päll (Estonia)
2 Toponymy of Latvia	Ojārs Bušs (Latvia)
3 Toponymy of Estonia	Peeter Päll (Estonia)

4 Toponymy of Lithuania	**Marija Razmukaitė Vitalija Maciejauskienė (Lithuania)**
5 Toponymy of Russian Federation	**Vladimir Boginsky (Russian Federation)**
6 Legal procedures concerning place names in Latvia	**Jurģis Kavacs (Latvia)**